

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in this application.

I. Claim Rejections.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-7 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Applicant's Admitted Prior Art* ("AAPA") in view of *Hourunranta, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,281) ("*Hourunranta*") under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 1. The Examiner acknowledges that AAPA fails to disclose "an output code amount controller that generates a control signal for controlling an amount of output data of said image signal coding unit *on the basis of the output of said multiplexer* through notification of said image signal coding unit with said generated control signal" (FOA page 5; claim 1). Therein, the Examiner relies on *Hourunranta* to disclose this element (FOA page 5; Examiner citing to *Hourunranta, specifically* at Fig. 5).

Hourunranta at Fig. 5 shows feedback from the mux buffer to the video and audio controllers. However, the output of the multiplexer in *Hourunranta* comprises only a coded audio data and a coded image data (col. 1, lines 22-35).

In contrast, claim 1 requires, "...a multiplexer that multiplexes the data stored in said audio data memory, said image data memory, and said control data memory...and...controlling

an amount of output data of said image signal coding unit on the basis of the output of said multiplexer...”.

Hourunranta fails to teach or suggest multiplexing coded audio, image and control data and, in turn, controlling an amount of output data based on said multiplexed signal. In fact, *Hourunranta* teaches away from the above required claim elements. *Hourunranta* teaches and Fig. 5 shows an input element 130 for transforming preference information 131 into control information 132, where control information is then input into video and audio controllers. The preference information 131 defines the preferred proportions between the different media types in the multiplexed bit-stream 123 (col. 5, lines 56-62). *Hourunranta* specifically addresses the contents of the multiplexed bit-stream and neither teaches nor suggests multiplexing control data. To the contrary, *Hourunranta* specifically teaches keeping control data separate from the multiplexed coded audio and coded image data.

While *AAPA* teaches multiplexing coded audio, image and control data, *AAPA* fails to teach or suggest generating a control signal for controlling an amount of output data of an image signal coding unit on the basis of the multiplexed signal. *AAPA* and *Hourunranta*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a multiplexer that multiplexes the data stored in said audio data memory, said image data memory and said control data memory, and controlling an amount of output data of said image signal coding unit on the basis of the output of said multiplexer. At least for this deficiency, the rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over *AAPA* in view of *Hourunranta* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 are asserted as being in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable claim.

The Examiner rejects claims 8-13 as allegedly being anticipated by *Hourunranta* under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claim 8. As discussed above in the traversal of the rejection of claim 1, *Hourunranta* fails to teach or suggest multiplexing audio, image and control signals to create multiplexed data and inputting the multiplexed output to an output amount control circuit for controlling an amount of image data. Therefore, an analogous argument to that presented above is asserted in traversal of the rejection of claim 8. In turn, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 as being anticipated by *Hourunranta* under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-13 are asserted as being in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable claim.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any points remaining in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)
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Respectfully submitted,



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